

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 158080
ORIGIN EB-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 INR-05 SS-14 /032 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ITP/EWT:BRFURNESS:DJ
APPROVED BY EB/ITP/EWT:RPRACHT
EB/ITP/EWT:WAROOT
EUR/WE:BMCKINLEY (SUBS)

-----014963 212309Z /70

P 212154Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////
LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, IT

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF CURRENT COCOM CHAIRMAN

REF: PARIS 18713

1. WE AGREE WITH US DEL (PARA 4 REF A) THAT SHOWDOWN
OVER COCOM CHAIRMAN SHOULD BE AVOIDED; HOWEVER, WE
QUESTION WHETHER IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO LIST REVIEW
OPENING IS A PROPITIOUS TIME TO SWITCH. IN RESPONDING,
US DEL SHOULD:

-- AGREE THAT A DIVISIVE DISPUTE OVER THE COCOM
CHAIRMANSHIP SHOULD BE AVOIDED;

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 158080

-- ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE ARE PERSONAL OR BUREAUCRATIC REA-
SONS (ITALIAN DIPLOMATS ARE LEGALLY OBLIGATED TO
RETURN TO ROME AFTER A NUMBER OF YEARS ABROAD) FOR
TRANSFERRING INDELICATO AT THIS TIME;

-- INDICATE THAT WE ARE GENERALLY OPPOSED TO CHANGING
COCOM LEADERSHIP AT THIS JUNCTURE. WE WOULD MUCH PREFER

IF POSSIBLE, TO KEEP THE LEADERSHIP UNCHANGED UNTIL
THE LIST REVIEW IS COMPLETED OR AT THE VERY LEAST, THERE
SHOULD BE A SUBSTANTIAL OVERLAP; AND

-- WITH RESPECT TO ITALIAN CANDIDACY, NOTE THAT THE US
IS OPEN-MINDED BUT COGNIZANT OF AND GRATEFUL FOR ITALY'S
EVEN-HANDED PERFORMANCE IN THE COCOM CHAIRMANSHIP.

2. WE ARE MORE THAN SOME WHAT DISTRESSED THAT ITALIANS
ARE CONSIDERING TRANSFERRING COCOM CHAIRMAN INDELICATO
AT THIS JUNCTURE AND WE WOULD PREFER THAT INDELICATO
REMAIN AT THE HELM THROUGH LIST REVIEW PERIOD. WE
HAVE BEEN GREATLY IMPRESSED WITH INDELICATO'S QUALIFICA-
TIONS AND ABILITY TO IMPARTIALLY CONDUCT COCOM'S AFFAIRS
DURING THE LAST FEW DIFFICULT YEARS. WE DO NOT FEEL
HE CAN EASILY BE REPLACED, IN PARTICULAR JUST BEFORE THE
W- IN OUR VIEW, FOR EXPERIENCE WELL
LIST REVIEW, WHICH CALLS, IN OUR VIEW, FOR EXPERIENCE
WELL BEYOND THAT WHICH CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED FROM
A NEW ARRIVAL. THIS SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS
REFLECTING ON THE QUALIFICATIONS OF ANY PARTICULAR
INDIVIDUAL BUT REFLECTS OUR BELIEF THAT SITUATION AT THIS
TIME CALLS FOR CONTINUITY NOT CHANGE IN KEY PERSONNEL.

3. US DEL IS REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN IF THE ITALIANS HAVE
APPROACHED ANY OTHER DELS. IF SO, WE WOULD BE ESPECIALLY
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PAGE 03 STATE 158080

INTERESTED TO KNOW EXTENT TO WHICH OTHERS SHARE OUR
RESERVATIONS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED TRANSFER. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING CHAIRMAN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE158080
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BRUFURNESS:DJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780259-0563
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780633/aaaabdek.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 30303984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS, STADIS
Reference: 78 PARIS 18713
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2259393
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSFER OF CURRENT COCOM CHAIRMAN
TAGS: ESTC, OCON, IT, COCOM, (INDELICATO, ALBERTO)
To: PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/30303984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014